

May 17, 2001

started. Their outstanding web site links families all over the United States and in many parts of the world. The Foundation seeks to improve the quality of life for individuals with Sturge-Weber Syndrome by acting as a clearinghouse for information, providing emotional support, and facilitating research. A minuscule 8 percent of funds taken in goes towards administration. The rest, including what's collected for the National Day of Awareness, goes directly to education, emotional support and research.

The Foundation has attracted the attention and respect of a dozen teams of scientists who are tackling the question of how Sturge-Weber occurs from different angles Klippel-Trenaunay is a related syndrome in which port wine stains on limbs extend to muscle tissue and bone affecting circulation and mobility. Most children with port wine stains have neither Sturge-Weber Syndrome nor Klippel-Trenaunay. Of course, these can cause dermatological complications as the child matures.

Sadly, the culture in the United States over-emphasizes the importance of physical beauty which adds to the emotional burdens of children and adults with Port Wine Stains, Klippel-Trenaunay, and Sturge-Weber. The Foundation has made progress in research and is determined to press on to find out everything they can about this family of syndromes.

LETTER FROM MELVIN HONOWITZ

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2001

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, a few months ago, I entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD letters from individuals or their representatives who took issue with assertions made in the report released last fall by the House Government Reform Committee majority regarding the Department of Justice. Since then, yet another individual has written to complain of inaccuracies and unfairness in the majority's report. In the interest of a complete record on this matter, I submit into the RECORD this March 30, 2001, letter from Melvin Honowitz.

HONOWITZ & SHAW, ATTORNEYS AT LAW,
ONE MARITIME PLAZA, SUITE 1725,
San Francisco, CA, March 30, 2001.

Re: Palladino & Sutherland, and Jack Palladino.

The Honorable DAN BURTON,
Committee on Government Reform, Washington, DC.

The Honorable HENRY A. WAXMAN,
2204 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MESSRS. BURTON AND WAXMAN: This office represents Palladino & Sutherland and Jack Palladino, nationally known private investigators [hereafter the "client"]. We write without waiver of any applicable privilege to address the false allegations, accusations, assumptions, innuendos, speculations and references to our client contained in Chapter 10 of the Committee's report entitled "Janet Reno's Stewardship of the Justice Department: A Failure To Serve The Ends of Justice."

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

The report's allegations as to Jack Palladino are premised on the *false* assumption that Mr. Palladino, or someone under his direction or control, had a "source in the Bureau of Prisons," and that his "source" obtained NCIC information on Nabuo Abe. The Committee's assumption is false and defamatory.

Moreover, the record on which the Committee relies is void of evidence in support of this assumption. Page 157, Section 1.a. of the reports is entitled "Soka Gakkai Illegally Obtained Information on Nabuo Abe Through Jack Palladino." Except for this defamatory heading, the report utterly fails to present evidence to support the accusation. In fact, the only references to Jack Palladino in this Section states, without supporting documentation, "Palladino then *apparently* contacted a source in the Bureau of Prisons who had access to the NCIC data base." [emphasis added] This is untrue and never happened.

The report then goes on to make the untrue and unsubstantiated statement that "the source at the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) broke the law, as did possibly Langberg and Palladino." [emphasis added] In a manner more reminiscent of Kafka or perhaps Alice's Adventures In Wonderland, the report makes allegations of criminal acts which, prior to publication, the Committee never gave our clients an opportunity to refute. Accordingly, one must not only question the lack of due process afforded our client, but the underlying bias of the report's findings and the Committee's investigation.

Then, in Section 1.b, the report gratuitously speculates as to why attorney Rebekah Poston may have sought NCIC records: "perhaps they were concerned with the reliability of Mr. Palladino's work . . ." In fact, in advancing this speculation the Committee ignores its own Exhibit 62 to the report which identifies where Ms. Poston obtained here alleged NCIC information, and makes no reference to Jack Palladino or Palladino & Sutherland or anyone under their direction and control.

Even a cursory review of the Committee's Report and attached Exhibits demonstrates a complete lack of evidence. The only mention of Mr. Palladino in the Exhibits supporting the report is contained in unfounded and false speculation and innuendo that Mr. Palladino (for reasons never made clear) might have "set up" Poston and Manuel in some undefined manner (Exhibit 97). Similar raw speculation appears in Exhibits 98 and 104 and is false.

In his letter of October 31, 2000 to the Committee, attorney Barry B. Langberg clearly states the truth:

"Simply put, there is no evidence that Soka Gakkai, Jack Palladino or I committed any crime, or engaged in any improper activity whatsoever. As the report acknowledges the staff failed even to interview Mr. Palladino or me about our role in this matter. These charges are particularly objectionable because they are not even relevant to the report's central thesis, that Ms. Poston and others working at her direction received favorable treatment at the hand of the Justice Department. Thus, these serious attacks are made almost casually, without any claim or relevance to any public purpose.

In fact, even a preliminary investigation would have revealed that the so-called "reliable source," Richard Lucas, never met with Mr. Palladino or discussed with him any of the facts or issues concerning this matter. Further, an investigation would also have shown that I had no personal involvement with the activity criticized in the report."

Mr. Langberg goes on to rebut and refute the allegations, including the speculation that something was planted in or deleted from the NCIC records. A copy of the entire Langberg letter is attached and incorporated by reference as Exhibit A, as are the four Committee exhibits referenced in this letter (Exhibits 62, 97, 98 and 104) attached as Exhibits B.

Be clear, my client did not access nor seek or direct anyone to access the NCIC data base. Accordingly, we request that this letter and Mr. Langberg's letter be read into the Congressional Record and that the report be corrected.

Sincerely,

MELVIN D. HONOWITZ,
Honowitz & Shaw.

IN TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN
JOHN DINGELL AND HIS WIFE,
DEBBIE DINGELL ON THEIR 20TH
WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2001

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a longtime personal friend and colleague, Congressman John Dingell, the dean of the House of Representatives, and his wife, Debbie Dingell, on the occasion of their 20th wedding anniversary.

As all of us know, John Dingell's hard work and dedication to public service has improved the lives of all Americans. What many people do not know, is that he has had an unrecognized partner in those good works, his wife Debbie. Together they have done a tremendous amount of good for the American people, both with charity work, the work they do with our party and the support that they give to this institution.

Debbie and John met during their constant travels together between Michigan and Washington, DC. Mrs. Dingell was working for the General Motors Corporation, while John Dingell had already been a Congressman for 20 years. Debbie Dingell is a nationally recognized advocate for women and children around the country. She has been involved in countless charitable organizations, including the Susan B. Koman Foundation and the Children's Inn at the National Institutes of Health.

With both of them working as a strong team, John Dingell has worked to protect the environment, improve health care, and defend the consumer from unsafe products and unfair practices. In fact, John has authored some of America's most important environmental laws, including the Endangered Species Act of 1973, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve in the House of Representatives with John Dingell. I congratulate him and Debbie for their 20 year wedding anniversary, and wish them every happiness.

HONORING JOELLE MARTINEZ OF
THE SANTA FE BOYS AND GIRLS
CLUB

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2001

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, for the past 13 years, the Santa Fe Boys and Girls Club on Alto Street has been a source of inspiration for Joelle Martinez. On March 16, 2001, Ms. Martinez was rewarded for her hard work and determination when she was named the Boys and Girls Club Youth of the Year.

The Youth of the Year program serves to recognize outstanding young people for their superior leadership skills, academic achievements, triumph over personal hardships, as outstanding contributions to the community.

Ms. Martinez had to endure a rigorous selection process in which she submitted a packet that included essays regarding her involvement at school, in church, with her family, and at the Boys and Girls Club to show her leadership skills within the community. After her packet was evaluated, seven judges, most of whom were Boys and Girls Club Board of Directors, conducted interviews and selected Ms. Martinez for the award.

Ms. Martinez, a senior at Calvary Chapel Christian Academy, first came to the Boys and Girls Club when she was five years old, and she has actively participated ever since.

Over the years, Ms. Martinez has participated in numerous activities aimed at keeping at-risk students involved in the community and off the streets. She has been involved in basketball, swimming, photography, wrestling, dancing and cheerleading. Today, Ms. Martinez is a staff member of the Boys and Girls Club, working with the children of Santa Fe each day after school.

Ms. Martinez played varsity basketball at Calvary Chapel and was selected to the All-Star team. She is a member of the National Honor Society, successfully maintaining a 3.0 or better grade point average. Recently, Ms. Martinez went on a mission trip to Spain, France and England with Calvary Chapel, and she continues to work with the Keystone Club, a teen organization aimed at philanthropy in the community.

As part of her award, Ms. Martinez received a \$4,000 scholarship to use at the college or university of her choice. She has already made plans for her future, looking at several New Mexico colleges and a few out-of-state Christian schools to continue her education, where she will pursue a degree in either Computer Science or Criminal Justice.

Ms. Martinez is living proof of how the Boys and Girls Clubs of America impact the lives of children in communities throughout the nation. They develop a solid foundation of positive moral and ethical values for our youths. The five Boys and Girls Clubs in Santa Fe County alone have more than 2,500 members and serve more than 55,000 people in the community.

Today, the Boys and Girls Clubs provide children of working parents with after-school alternatives to drugs and violence, yet President Bush's budget cuts funding from these

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

programs. His plan would extinguish a flame that has been lighting the County of Santa Fe for more than 60 years, seriously impacting the community. I hope there will be sufficient funding so that future generations have the opportunity to work with mentors like Ms. Martinez, who provide beacons of light that guide the way for other youth across the country.

NATIONAL WOMENS' HEALTH
WEEK

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2001

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor National Women's Health Week. I commend all of the women who have worked so hard to improve the health of all women. You are making a difference in the healthcare of American women.

We have much to celebrate, in the past decade, funding for breast and ovarian cancer at the National Cancer Institute has more than quadrupled, and funding for osteoporosis has grown from only two osteoporosis-specific grants in the entire country in the early 1980's to more than \$80 million in osteoporosis-specific research grants today.

However, our job is far from over, we need to protect the work we have done, and more work remains for the 21st Century. Despite great strides on women's health research, we still must be vigilant and must address issues that are not receiving the public attention and research priority that they deserve.

One example is microbicides. Today the United States has the highest incidence of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) in the industrialized world—15.4 million Americans acquired an STD in 1999 alone. STDs cause serious, costly, even deadly conditions for women and their children, including infertility, pregnancy complications, cervical cancer, infant mortality, and higher risk of contracting HIV.

Microbicides are a potential new class of products that women can use, like today's spermicides, to prevent HIV infection as well as other STDs.

Microbicides have the potential to save billions in health care costs. The total cost to the U.S. economy of STDs, excluding HIV infection, was approximately \$10 billion in 1999 alone. When the cost of sexually transmitted HIV infection is included, that total rises to \$17 billion.

With sufficient investment, a microbicide could be available around the world within five years. Microbicide research and development receives less than 1% of the federal AIDS research budget, and best estimates show that less than half this amount is dedicated directly to product development. Clearly this is not nearly enough to keep pace with the growing STD and HIV epidemics.

Mr. Speaker, because of the need for focuses research on women's health, I have introduced legislation, that can serve as a catalyst for women's health. The "Women's Health Office Act of 2001" H.R. 1784, will provide for permanent authorization for offices of women's

health in five federal agencies: the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS); the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); the Agency for Health Care Research and Quality (AHRQ); the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA); and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

This bill includes authorization for appropriations to ensure that future funding will be adequate to support these offices' missions and programs.

Providing statutory authorization for federal women's health offices is a critical step in ensuring that women's health research continue to receive the attention it requires in the twenty-first century.

I can say without exaggeration that women working together—as patients, lawyers, advocates, medical researchers, and members of Congress—have been a powerful catalyst for the advances we have made in the research and treatment of breast, ovarian, and cervical cancer, osteoporosis, and heart disease.

I look forward to the continuation of our work together and a strong record of high achievements.

I look forward to supporting legislation and programs to address the health needs of our citizens and the fundamental challenges posed by our nation's health care system.

CONGRATULATIONS, CAL DARDEN

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 16, 2001

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Calvin "Cal" Darden on his election to the Board of Directors for United Parcel Service. Mr. Darden, senior vice President of all U.S. operations for UPS, is the highest ranking African-American ever to serve at UPS. As a person who has invested a great deal of my life working to break down the racial barriers that divide our society, I commend him for his success. Through the success of Mr. Darden and others like him, we continue our journey toward a truly integrated society, toward what Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., called "the Beloved Community."

Jim Kelly, the UPS Chairman of the Board, also appreciates the contributions of Cal Darden, albeit for different reasons. "Cal Darden has devoted his professional life to making this company what it is today. It is due in no small measure to his efforts in the arenas of operations and customer service that Fortune Magazine just recognized UPS for the 18th consecutive year as 'America's Most Admired' transportation company."

Cal Darden joined UPS in 1971 as a part-time package handler while attending Canisius College. In 1972, he graduated from college and began his climb up the UPS corporate ladder as he was promoted into management. In addition to his success at UPS, Mr. Darden has been active in the community as a member of the National Urban League's Board of Directors, 100 Black Men of North Metro Atlanta, and his work with the United Way.

Congratulations and best wishes, Cal Darden. Keep your eyes on the prize.